



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/525,026	02/22/2005	Thomas Beck	2002P12057WOUS	3685

7590 10/10/2006

Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

AURORA, REENA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2862

DATE MAILED: 10/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is in response to amendment received on 07/27/06.

Claims 16 – 29 and 31 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 16 – 29 and 31, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jourdain et al. (6,541,964).

As to claims 16 – 29 and 31, Jourdain et al. (hereinafter Jourdain) discloses a method and apparatus for determining hydride content in a measurement object comprising subjecting the component (3) to a first eddy current producing signal (5); determining a first measurement variable of the component responsive to the first signal; subjecting the component (3) to a second eddy-current producing signal (5) having a different frequency than the first signal (col. 2, lines 32 - 45); determining a second measurement variable of the component responsive to the second signal, wherein the first and the second measurement variables each comprise conductivity or permeability of the component; determining a depth of the degraded region of the component according to a difference between the first and the second measurement variables (col. 2, lines 46 - 54) (Note fig. 1 and 2).

Response to Arguments


Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 16 – 29 and 31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reena Aurora whose telephone number is 571-272-2263. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, E. Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Reena Aurora


REENA AURORA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800